moved the U.S.. Court of Appeals for the Second Circut again the condition relation to discovery. The Appellate Court deleted the condition relating to satisfaction of judgement rendered against it by an Indian Court and modified the condition relating to discovery. The Government of India thereafter moved the U.S. Supreme Court by filing a writ of certiorari on 22nd May, 1987 seeking to reinstate the conditions imposed by the U.S. District Court. The writ petition is yet to be taken up by the United States Supreme Court. In the meanwhile a plaint was filed in September, 1986 against UCC in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal claiming compensation for the victims. The UCC had tried to stall the proceedings in the Court by filing interlocutory applications requesting for stay of proceedings on the ground of election of forum by Government of India which were vigorously opposed and the applications were dismissed by the District Judge. The proceedings of the case are in progress and the case is being pursued vigorously. Government has already moved an application for determination of liability of UCC as a legal issue.

Expert group on private sector particpation

896. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group set up by Government to go into the question of opening up the power sector for private companies has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the suggestions/recommendations made by the Expert Group; and

(c) what is Government's reactions in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) A Working Group was set up to study the modalities of private sector participation in electric power generation. The Working Group has submitted its report which is being examined.

Supply of power generating sets by BHEL

897. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly half of Assam's 500 MW power generation capacity is lying idle because of serious trouble with some power generating sets supplied by BHEL for Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether complaints about the power generating sets supplied by BHEL have been received from other State Governments also; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Due to a variety of reasons like grid disturbances, inadequaces in operating staff, problem in equipment etc., the generation of power in the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station has been below the desired level.

(b) No major complaints from the State Governments have been received Problems with regard to equipment are invariably sorted out directly beween Electricity Boards and BHEL.

(c) Does not arise.

Completion of Salal Hydro-Electric Project

898. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Salal Hydro-electric project of the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation Limited continues to suffer from serious drawbacks; and

(b) what remedial measures Government have taken to complete the project within the anticipated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) All major works except a small portion of the Tail Race Tunnel of the Salal Hydroelectric Project have been completed. Due to weak geology, loose muck and boulders had started flowing in a stretch of about 9 metres of unfinished Tail Race Tunnel of the project on 31-5-1987. Afer removing debris and draining out the water in the cavities, extensive step by step grouting, to fill the cavities is being carried out through out the tunnel in the shear zones, having weak geology. Additional steel supports have also been provided at the critical locations.

Setting up of notional drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority

899. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to have greater control over ehe quality of drugs purchased in the country, Government have decided to set up National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority;

(b) if so, by when the same will be constituted; and

(c) what will be the main functions of the said drugs authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Drug and Pharmaceutical Authority (NDPA) is being set up with the objective of ensuring rational use of drugs by edequately testing their therapeutic efficacy and to coordinate matters relating to development of drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in the country. The time frame for setting up of the proposed Authority is one year.

R & D Programme in BHEL

900. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the survival of BHEL, the only indigenous manufacturer of power generating equipment, rests on Research and Development Programme;

(b) what is the total amount allocated for research and development programme in BHEL for the last three years; and

(c) whether any headway has been made in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (c) The R&D activities in BHEL are directed towards assimilation and adaptation of a judicious mix of indigenous and imported technologies, cost reduction, etc. keeping in view the market preferences.

The R&D efforts in BHEL have resulted in successful commercial development of a number of Products/Systems.

(b) The annual expenditure in BHEL on R&D during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	expenditure
	Rs/crores
1984-85	26
1985-86	28
1986-87	42*

*Subject to Government audit.

Fuel efficient vehicles by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

901. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited has employed modern manufacturing technology to produce fuel efficient vehicles on a large scale;